

House Resolution 1608

By: Representative Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. George Erskine Rice; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Mr. George Erskine Rice on November 18, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Rice, who was affectionately called by his middle name, Erskine, by family  
5 and friends, held a distinguished, globe-circling, four-decade record in aviation history that  
6 began in bi-planes and continued into the age of supersonic travel; and

7 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted his time, talents, and energy to  
8 bringing the world of aviation to emerging nations and creating international airports around  
9 the globe with Pan Am World Services; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Rice was an active member of the National Aviation Club and the Wings  
11 Club in New York, which awarded him its Golden Eagle award, and he represented the  
12 United States at the Geneva conference that negotiated and introduced long-range navigation;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, he was committed to improving the lives of others and was active in numerous  
15 civic and community organizations, including Commerce Kiwanis, the Commerce  
16 Downtown Development Authority, the Cold Sassy Players, the Jackson County Advisory  
17 Council on Aging, and the Northeast Georgia Council of the Boys Scouts of America; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Rice was united in love and marriage to his wife of 68 years, Mildred, and  
19 was blessed with three wonderful children, Susan, David, and Emily, and three remarkable  
20 grandchildren, Chad, Daniel, and Caroline; and

21 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
22 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
23 family and friends were admired by others; and

24 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
25 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he  
26 made this world a better place in which to live; and

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Rice will long be remembered for his  
28 love of aviation, family, and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and  
29 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. George Erskine Rice  
32 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. George  
35 Erskine Rice.